

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 186065

21

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 /111 R

DRAFTED BY EA/P:AHROSEN:EB

APPROVED BY EA/P:AHROSEN

AMB. GRAHAM MARTIN

EA/VN - MR. BULLINGTON

----- 046883

R 232216Z AUG 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

UNCLAS STATE 186065

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, US, VS

SUBJECT: BRIEFING ON MIL AID CUTS FOR VN

1. HERewith TEXT OF VN GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR USE BY
DEPT. SPOKESMAN AT AUG. 23 PRESS BRIEFING:

QUOTE: Q. DOES THE DEPARTMENT SHARE THE REPORTED
VIEW OF A SENIOR US OFFICER IN SAIGON THAT THE CUT IN
MILITARY AID FOR SOUTH VIET NAM COULD BE FATAL FOR THE
THIEU GOVERNMENT? (EYES BEECH STORY, WP).

A. AS YOU KNOW, THE ADMINISTRATION HAD ORIGINALLY ASKED
FOR \$1.45 BILLION, WHICH IN OUR BEST JUDGMENT WAS A
REASONABLE AND PRUDENT MINIMUM TO ASSURE THE VIETNAMESE
GOVERNMENT ADEQUATE REPLACEMENT OF EQUIPMENT, ON A
ONE-FOR-ONE BASIS AS PROVIDED IN THE PARIS AGREEMENT, TO
COPE WITH ANTICIPATED CONTINGENCIES AND THE STEPPED-UP
LEVEL OF FIGHTING IMPOSED BY NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES.
WE ARE EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED WITH THE MOVES IN CONGRESS
TO CUT THAT MINIMUM LEVEL BY MORE THAN HALF. I WOULD
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 186065

NOT WANT AT THIS TIME TO TRY TO CHARACTERIZE THE

ULTIMATE EFFECT OF THIS ACTION, NOR DO I BELIEVE THAT
THERE HAS BEEN ANY CONSIDERED JUDGMENT THEREON EXPRESSED
BY THE US MISSION IN SAIGON.

Q. WHAT ABOUT SPECULATION THAT THIS CUT WILL LEAD
AMBASSADOR MARTIN TO RESIGN?

A. SUCH SPECULATION CERTAINLY DIDN'T COME FROM ANYONE
WHO KNOWS AMBASSADOR MARTIN. I HAVE SEEN NO
INDICATION OF SUCH INTENTION ON THE AMBASSADOR'S PART.
(IF ASKED) HE REMAINS IN THE DEPARTMENT ON CONSULTATION
FOR THE PRESENT.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE FIGHTING NEAR SAIGON?

A. THERE CONTINUES TO BE A HIGH LEVEL OF FIGHTING IN
SEVERAL AREAS OF SOUTH VIET NAM, IN CONTINUING COMMUNIST
VIOLATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. THE GVN FORCES ON THE
WHOLE ARE GIVING A GOOD ACCOUNT OF THEMSELVES, DESPITE
THE NVA USE OF FRESH EQUIPMENT INCLUDING TANKS NORTHWEST
OF SAIGON. WE DO NOT REGARD THE SITUATION AS
THREATENING SAIGON IN ANY WAY, HOWEVER. UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BUDGET, ARMED FORCES, COMBAT OPERATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE186065
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AHROSEN:EB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740234-0710
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740821/aaaaarsr.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUL 2002 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <21 JAN 2003 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRIEFING ON MIL AID CUTS FOR VN
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, US, VS
To: SAIGON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005